

Chapter 20: Point Features

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20.0 Point Features

Point features are created when an area, or item it represents, is too small to map. In the NFI this is <0.01ha. Only certain items can be recorded as points e.g. veteran trees, mineshafts...

Point features need only to be recorded within NFI Treed and NFI Open Sections and up to 10m outside the woodland edge (in Open non-NFI sections). The exception to this is where the Point feature is a H&S issue. The definition of H&S in this instance is where it would impact upon a surveyor getting to, and assessing, the sample square. For instance if the western 50% of a square is non-NFI open land which needs to be crossed to access the woodland then any H&S issues should be assessed. If, however, the surveyor approaches this square from the east and does not need to cross the western 50% then mapping of the H&S issues within the western part of the square is not required.

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20.1 Create Point Features

In the Data Editor choose Point Features from the Layer drop down menu and then Create new point from the Task menu.

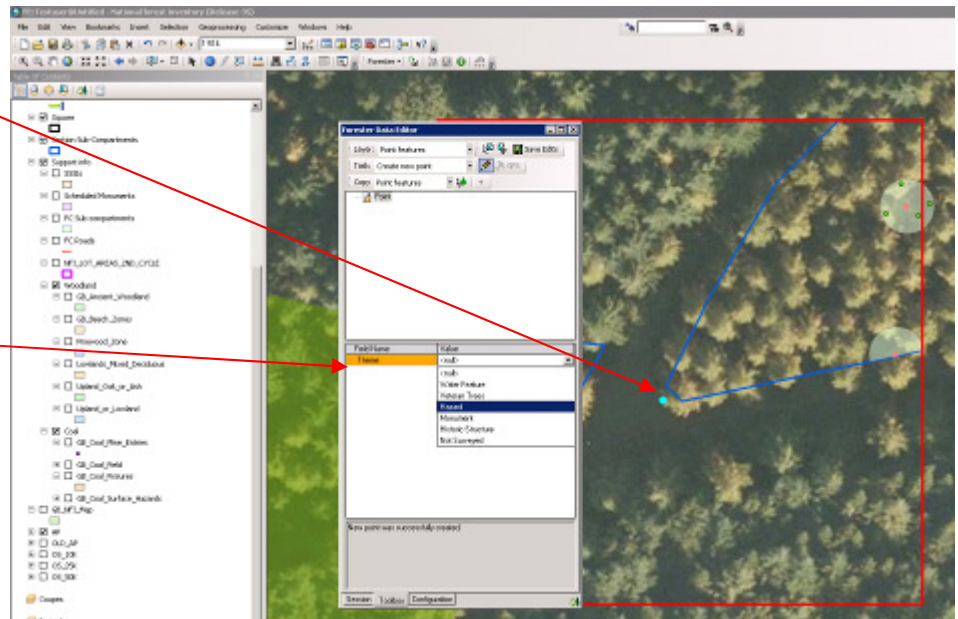


Select the



button and click on the screen to highlight the location of the Point.

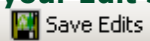
Within the Data Editor box, Data Field will appear. Fill this out in the normal manner (see following tables).



Right click on Point to Delete a Point Component:



20-3 Remember to Save your Edit Session Regularly, Validate the information and Backup the Data



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Table 20 - 1: Point Features Data Fields

Visit Status	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unvisited • In progress • Completed • Refused Access • Not possible to assess 	In progress can be used if surveyor needs to leave the site before completing data entry (e.g. it gets dark before completion)
Reason for Change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No change • Real change • Error change • Spatial error • 1st Assessment • Original 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For use in the 2nd NFI • For use in the 2nd NFI • A change in the data due to an error found by IFOS • As above but a Spatial error • The normal Reason – the 1st assessment of the site • Unchanged data from IFOS

When Adding a new Component the Theme of the Point field must be completed:

Table 20 - 2: Theme Data Fields - Point Features

Field Name	Value
Theme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Water Feature ▪ Veteran Trees ▪ Hazard



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22.1.1 Water Features – Type

Table 20 - 3: Water Features Data Fields

Type	Additional Data required	Data entry
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Pond 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Pond Area (sq metres) 	Estimate of area – Free text
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Water Feat. Depth 	Choose from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 0-1m ▪ 1-2m ▪ 2-3m ▪ 3-4m ▪ 4-5m ▪ 5+m ▪ Dry
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Tree Shading % 	Estimate % of pond overshadowed by trees from a plan view (i.e. from above)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Contaminants 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ None ▪ Woody harvesting & fallen tree debris ▪ No list A, possibly min. list B litter (see Table 21-9) ▪ Traces of list A and/or occasional List B ▪ List A widespread &/or occasional or widespread List B
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Outflow 	Is there an outflow visible? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Yes ▪ No
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Inflow 	Is there an Inflow visible? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Yes ▪ No
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Pond Origin 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Natural ▪ Man made
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Pond Age 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <10 years ▪ >10 years (10 years or greater)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Spring 	None	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Dams 		The presence of a build-up of woody material within a watercourse that impedes the flow of water
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Active Erosion 		Evidence of bank erosion/collapse and/or physical sedimentation

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20.1.2 Veteran Trees

Veteran trees are defined either by DBH for a given species, and/or a total of three or more features *and* attributes combined:

Table 20 - 4: Veteran Trees: Species vs. DBH

Species	DBH	Species	DBH
Alder	100cm +	Other Exotics	150cm +
Ash	100cm +	Other pine	150cm +
Beech	150cm +	Other small tree species	75cm +
Birch	75cm +	Poplar	150cm +
Cherry	75cm +	Rowan	75cm +
Elm	150cm +	Scot's pine	100cm +
Field Maple	75cm +	Sweet Chestnut	150cm +
Holly	75cm +	Sycamore	150cm +
Hornbeam	75cm +	Willow - Goat	75cm +
Horse Chestnut	150cm +	Willow - Grey	75cm +
Lime	150cm +	Willow - other	150cm +
Oak (lowland)	150cm +	Yew	75cm +
Oak (upland)	100cm +		

Table 20 - 5: Veteran Trees Data Fields

Field Name	Value	Comments
Species	See Species list above	
DBH	Free text – whole number	
Height(m)	Free text – total height to one decimal place	
Tree Form	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Maiden Form ▪ Multi-stemmed ▪ Coppice ▪ Pollard ▪ Layering 	See figures overleaf
Heritage Tree	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <null> ▪ Yes 	

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20.1.2.1 Veteran Tree Form

Diagrams from Fay, N. & de Berker, N. (1997) The Specialist Survey Method,
http://www.treeworks.co.uk/press_releases_publications.php
[p.](#)

Figure 20 - 1: Maiden Tree

Free grown with natural crown

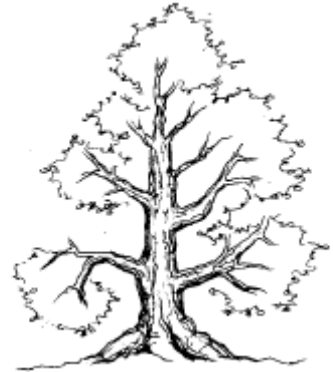


Figure 20 - 2: Multi-stemmed.

Trunk naturally crowned with multiple stems.



Figure 20 - 3: Coppice

Cutting of stems creating a multi-stem tree, cutting carried out near the ground



Figure 20 - 4: Pollard

Similar to coppice but stems start much higher from the ground (e.g. to prevent grazing of new stems)



Figure 20 - 5: Layering

Tree with main stem on the ground and new stems arising from it.



20-7 Remember to Save your Edit Session Regularly, Validate the information and Backup the Data



20 Point Features V6 a.doc

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Where a veteran tree has been identified the following assessments are to be made:

- Location of tree (Point feature)
- Species
- Form
- Estimated DBH (0-50cm, 51-100cm, 101-150cm, 151-200cm or 200+cm)

ADD in new Screenshots and update Contents

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Left click on Point to bring up the Veteran Tree Features and Veteran tree Attributes data entry fields.

Right click on Veteran Tree Features to **note** the presence of any of the following features. More than 1 feature can be noted by Right clicking on Veteran Tree Features as usual.

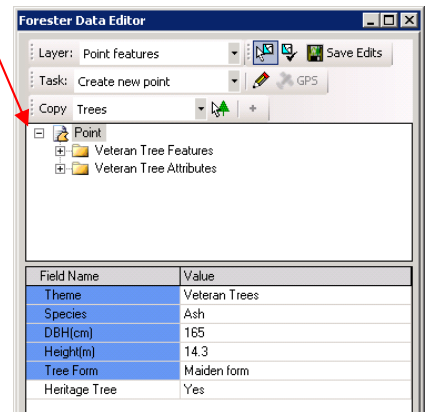


Table 20 - 6: Veteran Tree Features Data Fields

Field Name	Value
Feature	Foliose lichens
	Bryophytes
	Ferns
	Mistletoe
	Vascular plants
	Other trees
	Suckers

Right click on Veteran Tree Attribute to **note** the **presence and number** (free text, whole numbers only) of any of the following features. More than 1 attribute can be noted by Right clicking on Veteran Tree Attribute as usual.

Table 20 - 7: Veteran Tree Attributes Data Fields

Field Name	Value	Comment
Attribute	Rot Holes	Must be ≥ 5 cm diameter
	Rot Sites	Must be ≥ 300 cm ²
	Dead Wood in Crown	Must be ≥ 1 m in length and ≥ 25 cm circumference
	Hollowing of Trunk/Major Limbs	
	Water pockets	
	Bark Fluxes	Liquid from inside the tree leaking through the bark. Fluxes may emerge from wounds, cracks or fissures without obvious signs of decay.
	Tears, Scars or Lightning Strikes	
	Bird Nests	Use 1 to denote presence, do not count them all.
	Woodpecker Holes	As for Birds Nests
	Bat Roosts	As for Birds Nests
	Other Animal Activity	As for Birds Nests

20-9 Remember to Save your Edit Session Regularly, Validate the information and Backup the Data



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20.1.3 Hazard

Hazards (or Access Points) must be identified as Point features.

Table 20 - 8: Hazards Data Fields

Field Name	Value	
Hazard	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Mine Shaft▪ Sink Hole▪ Access point▪ Bridge▪ Recreation Site▪ Mast/Aerial/Windfarm▪ Harvesting Operations▪ Snares▪ Hunting▪ Other Hazard	If 'Other Hazard' is chosen a Comments box will appear which must be filled in.

20.2 Re-measure squares

20.2.1 Existing Point Features

For each entity (e.g. pond) a single field will be chosen at random to be confirmed by the surveyor. This is an 'aide' memoir' to remind surveyors to check everything observed by the previous surveyor. Likewise some fields will be left blank or incorrect values have been inserted to keep people on their toes.

20.2.2 Tolerances

When assessing whether a Point feature assessed by a previous surveyor is correct or not the surveyor should bear the following tolerances in mind:

- In the feature within 10m of where the current surveyor feels it should be?
- Is the feature in the correct place spatially in relation to other features, sections etc.? I.e. is it on the correct side of building or section?
- Are the attributes recorded against it reasonable, e.g. is it a pond rather than a spring

20.2.3 New Point Features

Where a new Point Feature is recorded the surveyor will be asked if this is a New, Missed or Evolved feature.

New – A feature that has been created since the last survey e.g. a new Hazard - snares has been found.

Missed – a feature that was obviously present during the last survey but was not created by the previous surveyor e.g. a veteran tree

Evolved – A feature that has changed and evolved since the last survey.